

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 AF-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 EURE-00 DRC-01 /158 W  
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P R 060730Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5047

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MT, UK

SUBJ: ISRAELI PATROL CRAFT INCIDENT

REF: VALLETTA 2384

1. SIRAELI AMBASSADOR BENYACOV TOLD US TODAY HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM TEL AVIV ALTHOUGH HE HOPES TO RECEIVE IT BEFORE MALTESE PARLIAMENT MEETS THIS EVENING. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF CASE IN PARLIAMENT EVENING DEC 4.

2. BENYACOV CLAIMS HE STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHAT ISRAELI BOSTS BERE DOING IN THIS AREA. HOWEVER, HE UNDERSTANDS ISRAELI NAVY DOES CARRY OUT PARTOLS NEAR "HOSTILE" SHORES, MENTIONING ALL OF THE ARAB STATES OF NORTH AFRICA AS WELL AS THOSE IN MIDDLE EAST BORDERING MEDITERRANEAN.

3. HE EXPLAINED FAILURE OF ISRAELI CRAFT TO COMMUNICATE WITH MALTESE AUTHORITIES AS RESULTING FROM FEAR THAT LIBYANS WOULD INTERCEPT RADIO COMMUNICATION AND POSSIBLY SEND PLANES TO  
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ATTACK.

4. BENYACOV ALSO REFERRED TO PRESENCE OF SHIPS IN MALTESE WATERS AS EARLY AS AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 29 AND SAID THAT POSSIBLY ISRAELI NAVY SHARED HIS IGNORANCE OF FACT THAT MALTESE HAS EXTENDED TERRITORIAL WATERS FROM 3 TO 6 MILES DEC 1971.

5. ADDRESSING ANOTHER MALTESE COMPLAINT, HE SAID THAT WHEN OFFICIAL IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TELEPHONED HIM TO PROVIDE NAMES OF TWO VESSELS CONCERNED, NAMES WERE BADLY GARBLED AND MADE NO SENSE IN HEBREW. AT AHAT POINT HE HAD DENIED ANY SHIPS BY THOSE NAMES WERE IN ISRAELI INVENTORY.

6. BENYACOV IS AS UNCERTAIN AS WE AS TO WHETHER MINTOFF WILL ACTUALLY BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE FEELS THERE MAY BE SOME COUNTER PRESSURES FROM SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS FROM SOME MEMBERS OF MALTESE CABINET. ON OTHER HAND, PRO GOVERNMENT PRESS INS NOW MAKING A MAJOR ISSUE OF INCIDENT, AND "MALTESE NEWS" CARRIED TENDENTIOUS AND INACCURATE EDITORIAL DEC 5 TITLED "A TIME TO BE TOUGH".GETZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL WATERS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973VALLET02408  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** VALLETTA 2384  
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**Review Date:** 20 SEP 2001  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISRAELI PATROL CRAFT INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** MOPS, MT, UK, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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